"There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy's life when he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure."

- Mark Twain

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You Should Read →

A great buddy adventure for kids, featuring young Jack and his butler Praiseworthy, as they stow away on a ship to the California gold fields in the hope of saving the family estate.

Incredibly charming and full of lighthearted adventure, while giving a (rather sanitized) look at what it was like when the world converged on the Sierra Nevadas to seek fortune. A Ruddy McDowell vehicle was made (extremely) loosely based on the book - avoid that shit.

正宗 The "Honjō" Masamune

Goro Masamune (1264-1343) may have been the greatest sword maker to come out of Japan, and several of his blades still exist in museums as national treasures.

One was owned by Honjō Shigenaga, who won it in battle in the 16th century and made its way into the possession of the Tokugawa shoguns.

When the US occupied Japan at the end of World War II, swords were banned, and Tokugawa Iemasa surrendered it to the authorities and it disappeared into American hands, likely as a prize of war.

Somewhere in America there is a priceless 700-year-old sword on a shelf in a closet.

Imagine an entire room, elaborately paneled in amber. In the early 18th century, such a room was actually built in Prussia, and then presented to the Tsar of Russia as a gift. The room was 180 ft², covered in six tons of amber. And then the Nazis came.

They looted it and took it to a museum in Kaliningrad, but when losing became a reality, they advised the curator to pack it up for safekeeping. In 1943, that museum was destroyed by Allied bombs. Did he?

Along with Biblical texts, the Dead Sea Scrolls included a treasure "map" - the Copper Scroll.

Engraved on this rolled copper sheet are descriptions of the locations of massive caches of treasure in the Jerusalem area.

The treasure may have been part of the Second Temple.

63 sites of treasure are described, but the descriptions reference ancient landmarks long gone. None of it has ever been found (that we know of, anyway).

Geocaching: Treasure hunting for everyone!

For those unfamiliar, geocaching is basically a giant worldwide treasure hunt, with caches hidden all over to be found and recorded - and you can create and hide your own for others to find!

Sign up on geocaching.com and take a look at the map - you'll likely find hidden treasures scattered throughout your neighborhood to find. It really adds a fun wrinkle to travel as well!

(Old ammo boxes make great caches) →

After the Confederacy collapsed in the face of Union advances, government officials pulled the Treasury's bullion for safekeeping as they fled.

Conflicting reports of what happened to that money - and how much there was - exist. The stories of "lost Confederate gold" have made up the basis of plenty of story plots, but where that money actually went remains a mystery...

Jefferson Davis left with a fair bit, but when captured,

he had nothing on him.

All the gold ever found on this planet (so far) would fit in a cube 23 meters on every side.

That's a bit under half the length of an Olympic-sized pool. It would weigh about 240,000 metric tons.

In Bedford County, VA, buried 6' under ground lies 2,921 lbs. of gold, 5,100 lbs. of silver, and jewels as well. Assuming, of course, the story contained in the "Beale ciphers" is accurate. Only one of the three codes has been broken in the last 200 years - break this one and you could be very rich indeed...

THE LOCALITY OF THE VAULT

71, 194, 38, 1701, 89, 76, 11, 83, 1629, 48, 94, 63, 132, 16, 111, 95, 84, 341, 975, 14, 40, 64, 27, 81, 139, 213, 63, 90, 1120, 8, 15, 3, 126, 2018, 40, 74, 758, 485, 604, 230, 436, 664, 582, 150, 251, 284, 308, 231, 124, 211, 486, 229, 401, 370, 11, 101, 305, 139, 189, 17, 33, 85, 209, 193, 145, 1, 94, 73, 412, 918, 263, 28, 500, 339, 330, 117, 136, 219, 27, 176, 130, 10, 460, 25, 485, 18, 436, 65, 84, 200, 283, 118, 330, 139, 86, 416, 280, 15, 71, 224, 961, 44, 16, 401, 39, 85, 61, 305, 12, 21, 24, 283, 134, 92, 63, 246, 450, 683, 7, 219, 184, 300, 780, 18, 64, 428, 474, 131, 160, 79, 73, 440, 95, 18, 64, 681, 34, 69, 129, 367, 460, 17, 81, 15, 108, 890, 63, 110, 97, 103, 862, 70, 60, 1217, 471, 440, 208, 121, 890, 346, 36, 150, 30, 308, 614, 13, 120, 63, 219, 812, 2160, 1750, 88, 35, 18, 21, 130, 372, 15, 28, 170, 85, 4, 30, 44, 112, 18, 147, 436, 195, 320, 37, 122, 113, 6, 140, 8, 120, 303, 42, 08, 401, 44, 106, 301, 13, 408, 680, 93, 86, 118, 330, 83, 308, 9, 102, 28, 416, 89, 71, 218, 128, 965, 318, 2, 35, 121, 193, 14, 336, 148, 234, 18, 81, 300, 36, 61, 02, 194, 78, 90, 300, 314, 676, 112, 4, 25, 18, 01, 136, 247, 819, 919, 801, 356, 985, 213, 64, 68, 232, 481, 900, 50, 29, 81, 316, 231, 603, 14, 612, 215, 346, 201, 206, 80, 36, 210, 824, 820, 840, 64, 320, 10, 48, 122, 85, 216, 284, 55, 131, 234, 361, 891, 73, 81, 628, 48, 961, 15, 26, 33, 10, 1101, 305, 93, 88, 181, 921, 1060, 464, 895, 10, 0, 66, 119, 88, 41, 49, 002, 423, 942, 903, 294, 873, 78, 14, 23, 111, 109, 69, 31, 601, 823, 216, 280, 34, 24, 150, 1000, 163, 286, 19, 21, 17, 340, 18, 242, 31, 80, 234, 140, 607, 118, 83, 191, 67, 104, 80, 52, 88, 10, 80, 131, 67, 95, 123, 210, 648, 96, 11, 201, 77, 804, 218, 03, 607, 890, 230, 154, 911, 10, 98, 34, 118, 36, 216, 110, 71, 318, 1104, 1406, 1817, 51, 39, 210, 36, 8, 19, 510, 282, 22, 141, 617, 84, 290, 80, 46, 207, 411, 150, 29, 23, 46, 172, 53, 191, 30, 261, 543, 807, 624, 18, 215, 416, 127, 031, 19, 4, 63, 96, 18, 101, 418, 16, 140, 230, 460, 688, 19, 27, 88, 613, 1431, 00, 716, 275, 74, 88, 11, 456, 85, 72, 84, 1300, 1706, 814, 221, 182, 40, 102, 34, 868, 975, 1101, 84, 16, 79, 28, 10, 81, 123, 824, 403, 912, 227, 936, 447, 55, 86, 34, 43, 212, 107, 96, 314, 204, 1063, 823, 428, 601, 203, 124, 96, 216, 814, 2900, 634, 830, 2, 301, 118, 170, 218, 71, 87, 96, 202, 33, 10, 2, 41, 17, 84, 221, 730, 830, 214, 11, 60, 760.

During the Age of Sail, Spanish fleets carried treasure looted from the New World back to Europe. These treasure fleets were subject to all the dangers of the sea, from bad weather to pirate attack.

In 1715 a hurricane sank eleven of these ships off the east coast of Florida. Coins still wash up on its beaches, and large finds are still being made - one company conducts a search every summer. You never know what a scuba diver there might find.

In 1982, an author named Byron Preiss wrote a book called "The Secret," commissioning an artist to create 12 paintings to go in it. Each was paired with verses to give clues to hidden treasure placed Preiss buried in boxes all over in parks country. the Each box has a real jewel inside. Only three have been found - nine more are still out there. Preiss was the only one who knew the locations, and he died in 2005.

THE SECRET
A TREASURE HUNT
THE TALE OF THE FAIR PEOPLE
THE MYSTERY OF THEIR TREASURE
THE WHEREABOUTS OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

LOST PUTCHMAN'S MINE - one of the most famous "lost treasure" stories

While stories differ as to where the gold came from (a mine of the Pueblo family, an Apache mine, ex-soldiers that stole it, etc.) the legend revolves around Jacob Waltz, a German immigrant who mined the Superstition Mountains (great name, by the way) near Phoenix, AZ. Waltz died in 1891, telling Julia Thomas, the woman nursing him, the location of a very rich gold mine.

In 1931, a man named Adolph Ruth went after the mine in the Superstition Mountains - and was later found stark dead with the map missing. His journal found on him, said he had found it... People have been searching ever since.

The Apaches used this lake for naval testing, and it was a hangout for their officers.

In 1954, divers found 2TOOM in counterfeit British currency that had been dumped there - it was part of an abandoned plot to flood and destabilize their economy.

Many believe the Nazis dumped their gold reserves here to keep it out of the Allies' hands.

The lake is deep (>300ft.) and underwater logs make diving dangerous - several have died looking, and what is really down there is unknown.

Atari went all-out in its followup to "Adventure."

"Swordquest" was envisioned as a series of four games - "EarthWorld," "FireWorld," "WaterWorld" and "AirWorld." A tie-in comic series would have clues to finding Easter Eggs in the game, and players who discovered the secret phrase it all pointed to could win:

- The Talisman of Penultimate Truth
- The Chalice of Light
- The Crown of Life
- The Philosopher's Stone

All real, jewel-encrusted items worth $25,000 each!

with a grand prize as well - the "Sword of Ultimate Sorcery", a jewel-studded sword of precious metals worth $50,000 (at the time!)

The first two prizes were given out with great fanfare - then Atari fell apart. Whether the Crown of Life was given out is unknown - but AirWorld was cancelled, and what happened to the crown, the stone and the sword is unknown.

Melted down? In a box somewhere? Atari did finally finish and release AirWorld in 2022 as part of the "Atari 50" collection with the other three.